(b) if so, what is the total tax outstanding as on 1st January, 1986 and the break-up of disputed demand and undisputed demand of such tax arrears; and

(c) what was the amount of undisputed demand as on 1st January, 1985 and how much has been collected out of such undisputed demand till 1st January, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The information to the extent possible is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Leasing and Investment companies

1623. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of leasing and investment companies floated in India at present;

(b) whether these companies fall within the purview of the Reserve Bank of India; if so, what action the Reserve Bank has taken to stop mushroom growth of such companies for healthy financial atmosphere; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring suitable legislation to regulate their activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The system of collection of information of the Department of Company Affairs, which maintains statistics about registration of companies, does not yield separate data on leasing and investment companies. However, the Controller of Capital Issues who accords consents for raising capital has given 53 consents to companies having the object, inter-alia, of leasing in 1985-86 (upto 28-2-1986) in comparison to 45 consents for such companies in 1984-85.

(b) The floatation and/or issue of capital by the leasing and investment companies, other than a subsidiary set up by a commercial bank, do not require Reserve Bank's prior permission.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Rehabilitation of Textile workers

1624. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to rehabilitate the workers of the closed textile mills in Bombay, Ahmedabad and other regions of the country;

(b) whether the managements of such mills have settled the claims of the workers; and

(c) if not, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) According to information received from the Ministry of Textiles, the New Textile Policy contemplates the creation of a Rehabilitation Fund to provide interim relief to workers displaced by permanent closures of Units. Under the Policy, displaced labour would be given priority in securing employment in other Units under the same management or other Units in the same area. The State Governments which are the appropriate Governments under the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 are expected to take all possible steps to rehabilitate workers affected by closures of textile mills besides taking action to ensure that workers' dues are settled giving them due priority in accordance with Law.

Bank loans for purchase of land for Agricultural or Plantation purposes

1625. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at present the banks are not financing the purchase of land for agricultural or plantation purposes; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue directions for financing such purchases specially in view of great emphasis on social forestry and need for bringing waste land under cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Banks provide credit assistance for purchase of virgin lands/neglected estates provided such purchase forms part of an integrated scheme covering both acquisition of lands/estate and development thereof. However, purchase of land *per se* which only involves transfer of land from one individual to another individual is not considered as one falling within the definition of productive purpose and is therefore not eligible for credit assistance from banks.

Apex Body Banks

1626. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to form an apex body for banks on the lines of Steel Authority of India Limited; and

(b) if so, what are the functions proposed to be assigned to this body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in Export of Textile products to South East Asia

1627. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of textile products to South East Asia has been going down during the past few years; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Utilisation of Service of Private selling agents by NTC

1628. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the National Textile Corporation is not utilising the services of private selling agents for institutional sales; and

(b) if so, whether it is not affecting the sales and whether Government propose to issue directions to the Corporation to make use of private selling agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) National Textile Corporation has not been utilising the services of private selling agents for its institutional sales. The institutional sales have not been affected by non-utilisation of the services of private selling agents. The institutional sales were worth Rs. 15.36 crores during the period 1985-86 (April 85 to January 86) as compared to Rs. 4.12 crores during the year 1984-85.

Release of goods on the basis of forged bank guarantees

1629. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain cases have come to the notice of Government wherein certain import firms got their goods released from the Central Warehousing Godown after presenting forged bank guarantees: